

**DETAILED ACTION*****Reasons for Allowance***

1. Claims 1-32 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

For independent claim 1, the prior art fails to show alone or in combination “A method for providing improved GTP path integrity assurance in a UMTS/GPRS network, the method comprising: defining a path based on a first node IP address, a second node IP address and a UDP port number; receiving, at a first node, a first GTP message from a second node; extracting one or more of: the first node IP address, the second node IP address and the UDP Port number, from the first GTP message; determining an operational state of the path based on the first received message; and storing the operational state of the path in a path integrity table, in association with the path definition and a time stamp related to a time the first GTP message was received.” The prior art, Garcia-Luna-Aceves et al. (U.S. Patent 7,159,035) disclose “a unified routing scheme” that uses a “routing table maintained by a first one of the nodes of the computer network may be updated in response to receiving one or more of the update messages.” (*See abstract*). The prior art disclose as a routing table update message that includes a source and destination address (*see figure 6*). However, the prior art does not disclose a GPRS tunneling protocol (GTP) message that further includes a port number and timestamp used to determine the operational state of a link. Independent claims 15 and 24 are allowable because they are similar to claim 1. Dependent claims 2-14, 16-23, and 25-32 are allowable because they depend on the allowed claims.

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***Conclusion***

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BEN H. LIU whose telephone number is (571)270-3118. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM to 6:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571)272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ricky Ngo/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit  
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